

8 September 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ATTENTION: Dr. Don Chamberlain, AD/SI

SUBJECT: Health Intelligence on North Vietnam

I have noted with interest the publication "Current Health Status in North Vietnam", OGI-SR/64-40 dated 26 August 1964, which reached OGI on 4 September.

As it happens, this was coincident with our receipt of the just-printed HIS General Survey on North Vietnam, dated July 1964, which includes a subsection on Health & Sanitation. The coincidence appears to present no particular substantive problems, except for the noted fact that the GS says in 1963 there were some 800 doctors of whom half might approximate Western standards, while OSI-SE/64-40 says that in 1959 there were 1900 doctors of whom 400 might meet such standards. While this may not be a factual discrepancy, some user uncertainty might result from these two statements in concurrent Washington issuances on the subject.

Of basic interest in OSI-SR/64-40 vis-a-vis a Section 45 on North Vietnam. Had we known that capability was currently making possible an OSI study, the interest in the country might well have suggested effort to produce an updated NIS Section 45. Even in the event of two separate publications, it might have been -- or might still be -- possible to parallel the action in 1962 to build on the NIS-related research reflected in an October 1962 OSI study when, with Defense and OSI and OSI participation in an expediting task force to include somewhat expanded topical coverage, it proved possible to print in two weeks from scratch the well-received NIS Section 45 on Cuba, with its wider dissemination. Aside from other aspects, a Section 45 on North Vietnam would somewhat offset the production lag in the scheduled Sections 45.

I would be interested in your views as to the feasibility of expeditiously expanding OSI-SR/64-40 and the General Survey to revise and update a Section 45 on North Vietnam which has now been extant for seven years.

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